**Castes and religious communities as minorities**

†1409. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the castes and the religious communities recognised as minorities in the country;

(b) the castes proposed to be included;

(c) the other communities given the status of minority during the last three years; and

(d) the details of the norms being followed to give community the status of minority?

THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI A.R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The following religious communities have been notified as minority communities under Section 2(c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992:—

1. Muslims
2. Christians
3. Sikhs
4. Buddhists
5. Zoroastrians (Parsis)

There is no proposal to include any caste in the list of minority communities.

(c) and (d) No community has been notified as a minority during the last three years.

**Setting up of bio-gas plants in the country**

1410. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of family-type bio-gas (gobar gas) plants set up in the country during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the details of subsidy given for setting up bio-gas plants; and

(c) the steps taken to promote bio-gas plants in rural areas?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.